

February 9, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press
 Appearing on February 8, 1948

AD-DIYAR

Fawzi al-Qawuqchi, commander of the Arab volunteer forces arrived in Beirut Friday, February 6, to bid his friends farewell before his imminent departure to the fighting front.

'Adel Usayran, Lebanese delegate to UNO, arrived here by air yesterday morning. It is felt that his presence in the Lebanon at this time is both useful and essential.

This paper publishes a report from Damascus to the effect that a final meeting was held on Feb. 7 at the President's House. The meeting was attended by the Mufti as well as by leading Palestinian and other Arab personalities. It was disclosed that the meeting dealt with appointments and the distribution of responsibilities. Agreement was reached for entrusting the general command to General Isma'il Safwat Pasha, with Taha Pasha al-Hashimi as Inspector General and al-Qawuqchi as commander of the irregular forces. In this meeting also, Palestine was divided into four military areas and certain authorities were granted to local commanders.

Damascus - a large number of volunteers arrived here from Aleppo, Homs and Hama and demonstrated in the streets of Damascus. It is reported that the Arab forces will enter Palestine from four sides simultaneously.

Cairo - 7,000 Sudanese volunteers are to be placed at the disposal of the Arab League for fighting in Palestine.

BEIRUT

In commenting on the appointment of Charles Malik, Lebanese Minister in the U.S., as head of the Economic and Social Council in UNO, this journal says in part "The Lebanon has scored a new moral success - a success which gives a right to have confidence in its world position, to strengthen its faith in its mission, and to be proud of the matchless genius and talent of its people. The nations have agreed to elevate the Lebanese representative to the greatest economic, social and intellectual institution known in history."

Wahbi al-Hariri, the Syrian Minister of Finance is reported to have declared that in as much as the Lebanese Foreign Minister has signed the currency agreement in Paris, the Syrian Government finds itself compelled to reconsider its economic relations with the Lebanon in the light of the new situation. His Government has therefore decided to prohibit the export of Syrian produce to the Lebanon. Political and commercial circles in Damascus are discussing the Syrian Government's intention to abolish the Common Interests Treaty now in force between Syria and the Lebanon.

AL-HAYAT

hopes that the Syrians and the Lebanese will abandon political disputes and personal recriminations and begin to deal with facts and figures. The recent currency crisis, the paper comments, has been a real moral calamity. It has

revealed our paucity in experts and exposed a blemish about which we have oftentimes warned. It is truly unfortunate for this country, rich as it is with hundreds of doctors, lawyers, and engineers to lack a few experts who could decide whether the plasters will remain plasters or not.

ASH-SHARQ

warns the Government editorially that Cafe "B" which adjoins Cafe Republique is now being used as an arms traffic center where five persons meet for this purpose: Three are Khazanites and two belong to the Nakhla family of 'Antoora. The paper doubts whether these persons are interested in the Palestine issue because "they are the last persons to care for any Arab cause."

Ash-Sharq's correspondent in Nablus reports, among other Palestinian news, that the Zionists have, for the first time, attacked al-Aqsa Mosque and inflicted severe injuries on a Moslem who was praying inside the mosque. This incident, the correspondent adds, has created universal indignation throughout the Arab world.

This journal publishes the picture of a Lebanese volunteer for Palestine. His name is Shaheen Muhammad Jabir, a Sergeant from the Lebanese Yarmuk Brigade.

Land and air communications returned to normal yesterday between the Lebanon on the one hand and Iraq, Iran, and Turkey on the other.

The appropriate authorities have received new proposals from American motion picture companies expressing their willingness to take films of Lebanese places of historical and scenic interest at small cost. These companies are ~~already~~ also ready to display the films abroad as propaganda for the Lebanon.

AL-BAYRAQ

The Council of Ministers decided yesterday to entrust the portfolio of the Minister of Foreign Affairs to Gabriel al-Murr in an acting capacity, ~~and of the Minister of Interior to Ahmad al-Hussaini in an acting capacity.~~

SYRIAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

February 10, 1946

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on February 10, 1946AL-BAYRAQ

In a long editorial denouncing certain elements which are attempting to exploit the economic differences now existing between Syria and the Lebanon, this paper declares that "the Lebanese people and their true leaders of independence wish that the Government comply with the desire of the Syrian press and Government for abolishing at the end of March all the economic agreements existing between Syria and the Lebanon and to replace them by diplomatic representation. The Lebanon will thus treat sister on the basis of the ~~friendship~~ treatment which it accords to Egypt and Iraq. Then only will the Lebanon enjoy its complete freedom and independence."

On the occasion of the celebration of Mar Maron's anniversary, Archbishop Mubarak delivered a sermon, during high mass at Mar Maron's Church, in which he referred to the recent conspiracy and said that it was unfortunate that the real conspirators have disappeared while the innocent people are being thrown into the prison houses. Regarding the currency dispute between the Lebanon and Syria, the Archbishop declared that the Lebanon refuses to stay under the control of any party and refuses also to bend to the dictatorship of the Arab League. The Archbishop then went on to say that everybody knows that he has not been in full agreement with the present Government to "whose illegal activities we have always objected. But now, having observed that the Government's last measure concerning the monetary agreement will bring prosperity to the Lebanon, we support it and praise its action. We ask the Government to continue its reforms so that the Lebanon may remain the sovereign of all its affairs."

Al-Bayraq understands that the Syrian and Lebanese presidents have had a long telephonic conversation concerning the problems which have arisen from the currency separation. The Presidents expressed their desire to maintain the spirit of friendship and brotherhood existing between the two countries. The paper then adds that it is no longer a secret that Wahbi al-Mariri, the Syrian Finance Minister, is leading the movement for customs and economic separation from the Lebanon. It concludes that Al-Mariri is indeed leading the movement for hatred against the Lebanon.

Publishes telegrams signed by many citizens of Beirut protesting against the detention of Louis Ayada.

The local correspondent of Al-Bayraq reports that the decrees which the Lebanese Premier signed before leaving for Cairo appointing and promoting certain high officials, were not referred to the Minister of Finance, Muhammad al-Abboud, who is also the Chairman of the Cadre Committee. The Finance Minister is displeased with the Premier in this respect and is said to have declared that he would submit his resignation as soon as these decrees are put into force.

General Spears has congratulated the Syrian President on his country's salvation from the yoke of French financial and economic exploitation.

LIBANON-AL-HAL

declares in its leader that neither Syria nor the Lebanon can definitely say whether they are right or wrong in the currency dispute, as this will be revealed in the future. It believes however, that the "final decision for tying our currency will be left to Parliament. With regard to reports that the monetary agreement is to be referred to the Arab League for arbitration, this is a distant possibility. We do not believe that this idea was seriously nursed by the responsible authorities in the Lebanon, for what right have others to interfere in our financial affairs?"

Headlines

The Tapline Company has not offered 60 million dollars to Syria for covering its currency.

Syria applies economic sanctions against the Lebanon and diverts to Latakia commodities destined for Beirut. Al-Hariri stresses that Syria does not need any guarantees and that it could safeguard its currency with the proceeds of its exports.

Iraqi Premier declares upon arrival in Egypt "The measures for saving Palestine are slow". The question of dissolving the Iraqi Parliament is under consideration.

Relative peace prevails in Palestine.

Are there preliminary discussions for settling the "French account?"

AR-RIXAR

In an editorial titled "To the Responsible Authorities in Damascus: We are neither Germany nor are you Britain" this paper writes in part: "Suppose Syria is able to impose an economic encirclement on us similar to the embargo which the democracies ^{against} Germany during the just ended war; suppose Syria can make us hungry? Should it take such steps? Would it be reasonable on Syria's part to adopt such a policy? Does it not fear that such a move will alienate us and make our relations with it similar to that now existing between itself and Amman?"

BEIRUT

Condemns editorially the monetary agreement and demands that the Lebanese Government make its stand clearer on this issue.

This paper understands that the Syrian Finance Minister is expected to fly today to Cairo in order to submit ^{to} the Arab League the problems which have arisen from the Lebanon's unilateral signature of the Franco-Lebanese monetary agreement.

Headlines

British delegation leaves for America for discussions with the International Commission on Palestine

The Political Committee of the Arab League yesterday studied the developments of the Arab resistance movement in Palestine.

British Army finds arms and ammunition in synagogue at Tel Aviv. Six Syrian volunteers arrested.

- 3 -

The Syrians did not attend yesterday's meeting of the Common Interests Committee.

Prices of foodstuffs which Syria is preventing to send to Lebanon are soaring. Commercial centers are paralyzed.

Shitara meeting ends with no results. Separation measures are applied on frontiers. Differences between the two countries are being further aggravated.

ASH-SHARQ

denounces the sermon which Archbishop Mubarak delivered on February 9 on the occasion of the anniversary of Mar Maron. The Archbishop's sermon overlapped the frontiers of the Lebanon to the Arab League and said that the Lebanon does not want the Arab League to Control the Lebanon. Ash-Sharq asks where is the League's control? In the memorandum which the Archbishop has submitted to the International Inquiry Commission to turn Palestine into a Zionist state? In promoting the conspiracies which are plotted within the walls of Ma'had al-Hikma? In the receipt of Zionist funds in the name of the church to weaken the Lebanon and to place it under Zionist influence? The paper then feels that the Archbishop's utterances are not even worthy of street urchins. It adds that the Archbishop praised the Government to assuage the anger of the responsible authorities. This is not strange, Ash-Sharq concludes, of the Archbishop who is the old and new resounding voice of France!

AL-YAWM

declares that Archbishop Mubarak's sermon has been deeply resented by all the Lebanese, including the Maronites. It insists that the Government put a limit to the Archbishop's activities and expresses pleasure that members of the Maronite community condemn his call for dignity.

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

February 11, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on February 11, 1948BEIRUT

This journal has for the past several days been severely criticizing the monetary agreement. It declares today that no one should have confidence in the Franc which was devaluated seven times in twenty years, and wonders whether there is "any Lebanese who believes that the French will not abrogate the new treaty before its ink has dried. They French canceled the 1944 treaty despite their unlimited obligation thereunder". Referring to the Premier's role in the agreement, the editorial declares "We do not doubt the Premier's loyalty and nationalism. But it is hard to realize that he has placed the cart before the horse this time by heeding the advice of the specialists and leading economists only after the treaty was signed." Finally, the editorial expresses the hope that the Premier will appreciate the gravity of the situation and will not present the agreement to the March 25 Parliament.

A Cairo news despatch reports that Riyadh as-Solh has told a representative of the Egyptian Broadcasting Station that the differences now existing between Syria and the Lebanon are financial and not political and that they are similar to those involved in the Anglo-Egyptian and Anglo-Iraqi talks.

The Ministry of Post and Telegraph has notified the Ministry of Finance of its decision to stop payments of all Syrian post and telegraphic remittances until the currency situation is clarified.

The Director General of Foreign Affairs yesterday received The Turkish Minister and the Belgian Minister. It is understood that the visits were connected with Turkey's and Belgium's desire to conclude commercial treaties with the Lebanon. This paper's correspondent writes however, that four powers have so far expressed their desire to conclude trade agreements with the Lebanon. They are Belgium, Turkey, Argentine and Iran.

Headlines

Arab states decide to send their troops to Palestine to prevent partition - Cairo

Assam Pasha warns the UNO of long civil war in East. League's political committee resume military meetings - Cairo

Amir Abdul Karim attacks Spain and France for persecuting nationalists in Morocco - Cairo

Westinghouse engineers arrived yesterday and began their work at Khalda airfield.

AL-BAKRA

states in its leader "we wish, for the sake of brotherly peace, the same economic independence and prosperity for Syria as we do for the Lebanon. With goodwill prevailing, the interests of the both countries will be identical. But let us grant the Lebanon the right to deal with its own affairs according to its own wishes."

Despite the statements of Riyadh as-Salh and Jamil Mardam that everything has been settled between Syria and the Lebanon, Wahbi al-Hariri, the Syrian Minister of Finance, insists on going to Cairo to present the currency issue to the Arab League.

Al-Bayraq resents the criticism "which certain newspapers yesterday published against the Archbishop of Beirut. The Archbishop will always remain the first hero of this country's independence."

The Police authorities have confiscated the Egyptian weekly "Akhbar al-Yaum" which contains a report on the Muhi al-Arian incident. The report contains a number of allegations which are highly prejudicial to the Lebanon's reputation abroad.

Fadhil Sa'eed Aql, al-Bayraq's chief editor, stresses that the Lebanon and the Arab countries should not join any world bloc, particularly as the future is dark and no one knows who will be the winner. ~~There~~ Thus caution and neutrality should be our best policy."

This paper continues to publish telegrams of protest from numerous people against the Government's detention of Louis Ziyada.

Headlines

Will Syria refer the Tapline question to the present session of the Arab League Council? - Damascus

Saudi Arabia contributes 200 thousand guineas for Palestine - Cairo

Amir Muhi al-Arian changes his mind about his surrender.

Will Syria initiate new negotiations with France?

Mufti of Palestine meets with Riyadh and Mardam because the differences between the two countries will affect the entire Arab world, Cairo

AL-HAYAT

declares that the man in the street is still wondering whether Palestine has been provided with the funds, men and arms promised by the Arab countries. One or two states, the paper continues, have done their duty to a certain extent but the rest are generally contented with expressing their Platonic love and publishing notifications and statements. It concludes that "we do not doubt for a moment the sincerity of the Arab Governments in defending Palestine, but we complain of delays and procrastination and hope that the Arab League Council will put an end to this, so that the promised funds, men and arms may become a reality."

Funds contributed to the Palestine Bureau totaled 769,290.75 Lebanese Liras up to February 9, 1948.

- 3 -

Adel Aralan recently returned from the United States after having participated with the Lebanese delegation defending the Palestine question before the United Nations Organization. He told al-Hayat's representative that the "American is mechanical in the full sense of the word. He drives his car at 60 kilometers an hour, thinking all the time of the dollar. He has no faith in others.... The Americans refer to the Mufti as the Nazi announcer over the Berlin Broadcasting Station during the war. He is thus the enemy of the allies before being the enemy of the Zionists. The banks in America are 100 percent Jewish. Commercial establishments in America thrive on propaganda and advertisements. These are effected through the press and the movies, both of which are in Jewish hands. Arab propaganda is not widespread in America. In order for the Americans to understand the Arab cause as substantially as the Zionist case, the Arabs must spend at least 100 million dollars a year. The Arabs could save Palestine with half of this sum. The only means for saving Palestine is iron and blood. Speech, logic and poetry die away before reaching America."

SAWT AL-AHRAR

Stresses editorially that economic experts have advised the Government to sign the monetary agreement with France. It concludes: "The Lebanon is not dependent upon, and does not want to be indebted to, any one whether in the field of food or economy. If Syria sold grains to the Lebanon during the war, it got, and is still getting, high prices for them. In point of fact, the Lebanon is Syria's natural market. We do not know to whom it will sell its grains tomorrow if the Lebanon refuses to buy them and if the Lebanon proclaims that it is a free country and that goods imported therein will not be subject to customs duties."

The Lebanese Government has signed an agreement with the American Government for the reciprocal exchange of official publications between the two Governments. The Minister of education has therefore sent a circular to all government departments inquiring concerning the Lebanese publications which could be forwarded to the American Government.

February 12, 1946

Arabic
Review of the Local Press
Appearing on February 12, 1946

AD-DIXAR

reports in its leader that it is receiving telegrams from Tripoli, Sayda, Beirut and other Lebanese districts in which their senders protest against the monetary separation from Syria. The editor then goes on to assert that "we have protested and continue to protest against such separation. The Lebanese Government does not want it and every Arab nationalist in the Lebanon regard it as a blow to his high ideals. This separation is undesirable both from the national and economic standpoints. It is a separation which plunges the economies of the two countries into a deep abyss, especially so if the Syrian Government persists in following recent policy. This separation will weaken the two countries politically and will prejudice their spirit of resistance against the Zionists. Because it will dissipate their efforts which are needed in the service of Palestine... Moreover, the Lebanon will find itself obliged to defend itself against Syria's pressure while Syria will be pre-occupied in increasing its economic pressure. Thus both countries will have no time for Palestine or others." The editor then declares that these are his and the nationalists views on the currency separation. He hopes that the foregoing telegrams should have been sent to Damascus to protest against the Syrian Government's behaviour toward the ~~Lebanese Government~~ the Lebanon.

The Lebanese Foreign Office is in receipt of a communication from the Spanish Foreign Office on the subject of diplomatic representation between the two countries. The Spanish Ministry expresses a desire to expand its diplomatic relations with the Lebanon owing to the commercial relations which bind Spain and the Lebanon and to the disappearance of the conditions of war. The Lebanese Foreign Office has welcomed this request and has referred the pertinent documents to the Council of Ministers for approval.

Farhan Beg Shbeelat, the new Transjordanian Minister to the Lebanon, arrived in Beirut from Amman yesterday. He was welcomed by the staff of the Transjordan Legation and by a representative from the Foreign Office. He will shortly present his letters of credence to the President. The paper comments that the new Minister is "one of the best Transjordanian nationalists and intellectuals. We therefore welcome him warmly and wish him success in his mission."

The Minister of National Economy yesterday received in his dancery Mr. Pinkerton, the American Minister, who was accompanied by the new Commercial Attache at the American Legation, whom Mr. Pinkerton officially presented him to the Minister. The American Minister and the Commercial Attache stayed for some time at the office of the Minister of National Economy. The topics of their conversation were varied but dealt generally with American-Lebanese economic relations and the difficulties of obtaining American dollars. The Minister invited the American Attache's attention to the fact that if this situation would continue it would result in reduced imports from the United States. The American Attache promised to report the matter to his Government.

List No. 40 of contributions to the Palestine Bureau shows ^{that} the total contributions up to February 10, 1948 amounted to 777,133.50 Lebanese Liras.

BEIRUT

headlines its editorial as follows: "France has evacuated Syria and the Lebanon militarily. It must withdraw from them financially and economically too. The agreement will subject us to France's financial and economic control."

Yesterday, the Syrians took part in the Common Interests meeting. Representatives of the Lebanese and Syrian Governments will meet at Antoura today to examine the economic situation.

Beirut businessmen yesterday sent a delegation of 150 merchants to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. They explained to the Chamber's President, Umar Da'ood, the harm which will result from the Lebanon's currency separation from Syria and expressed to him their readiness, in the event the agreement is ratified, to hand over to the responsible authorities the keys to their commercial houses. Al-Da'ood re-assured the delegates that he was, in conjunction with other officials, doing his utmost to prevent the ratification of said agreement.

The Lebanese Minister in Ankara has requested the Lebanese Foreign Office for leave to proceed to Beirut in order to report the results of his efforts concerning the agreements which have been concluded between the Lebanon and Turkey regarding the properties of Lebanese citizens in Turkey and the ~~status~~ citizenship status of Lebanese residents in that country. The Minister's request has been deferred until the Premier's return from Cairo.

Headlines

Fighting ensues between British and large Arab force which attempted to cross Palestine-Syrian frontiers. Britain advises International Commission of gravity of food situation in Palestine - London

Faris al-Khourd opposes the Security Council's examination of the Palestine partition plan. He declares that this study is premature because no country has so far approved it constitutionally. Moreover, the Commission's activities were illegal. The Council consents to examine the protest of Syria's representative. Britain insists on preventing the Commission from entering Palestine before May 15 - Lake Success.

A French responsible official declares that France is heading toward a severe economic crisis - Paris.

Arab League Council meets today to discuss Political Committee's report. Question submitted re Britain's relations with the Arabs.

Arabs in America start campaign for five million dollars for Palestine - New York

How the students' movement in Iraq turned into a popular revolution.

Lebanese Government communicate with Rumanian and Mexican companies re export of oil to Lebanon.

AL-HADITH

The Lebanese President has granted the Cedar Medal - officer's grade - to Sallum Mukarzel, the editor of Al-Huda newspaper of New York, on the occasion of that paper's 50th jubilee.

The press has recently been referring to the stand of Amir Majeed Arslan, the Minister of Defense, on his brother's recent movement. Amir Majeed has been deeply disturbed by his brother's activities and it is understood that he has, in his capacity as Minister of Defense, issued severe orders to the forces under his command and which are engaged in pursuing the rebels to arrest Amir Nuhad dead or alive.

Headlines

Arab world confidence in America is basic for expanding the latter country's petroleum activities.

Common Arab pound to be created for Middle Eastern countries - Al-Hariri declares that Syria does not need the Tapline's dollars not should it tie its currency to Egyptian currency-Cairo

American military equipment sent to Turkey. American mission trains Turkish Army which will be able to face any outside aggression.

AM-NAHAR

writes editorially that "we refuse to see in the Syrian measures any ill intentions. If Syria is motivated by a desire to strengthen its economy, we then allow ourselves to draw the Syrian Government's attention to the fact that its true economic interests lie in co-operation with the Lebanon. However great the need for separating Syria's economy from the Lebanon may be, this should not justify Syria's barriers and restrictions.....which might lead to political results desirable neither to Syria nor to the Lebanon."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

February 13, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on February 13, 1948AL-HADEETH

"We tell the proud Syrian people that the Lebanon has escaped from the snare of need, poverty and destruction and that it will live like a brother who understands and sympathizes with you. Here close to you the Lebanon shall continue to act as the messenger who promotes knowledge and freedom and who offers you these values to help you break the chains whose links are so strongly held by your masters. The Lebanon will continue to be your hope and consolation for attaining an order which will be better than the feudal system to which your masters subject you and which they call democratic, while they tear away your limbs, destroy your bodies and dance on your graves. O, people of Syria! We harbor only love toward you. You are not the object of our contempt when we deride those who create dissension and who are mutually ~~destructive~~ of our liberty."

ENVIOUS

The Lebanese Minister in Moscow has communicated to the Foreign Office that the Soviet authorities have discussed with him the possibility of importing bananas from the Lebanon. The Minister's communication has been referred to the Ministry of National Economy.

AL-NABI

again criticizes the monetary agreement and declares that the "Lebanese do not face death when demanding their release from the bondage of the Franc. In dealing with the currency problem, they should do so as a part of a whole. By 'a whole' we mean the common interests existing between ourselves and Syria. The trend of events and the measures which Syria has so far taken all indicate that the Syrians are serious in their bid for separation."

A meeting was held yesterday at the President's chancery under the chairmanship of the Minister of Justice to discuss the results of the investigations in the Sofer incident. It is understood that the judicial investigation still refuses to release the detained persons, including Louis Ziyada and Khalid Abdul Qadir. Amir Nuhad Arslan is still in hiding and rumors that he has crossed the frontiers to Syria are not confirmed by the official investigators. The Security forces ~~within~~ are still pursuing the rebels, eleven of whom were arrested yesterday.

The Lebanese Ministry of National Economy is in receipt of a communication from the National Committee in Haifa complaining that the Jews in Haifa are receiving vegetables and fruits from the Lebanon, despite the Arab countries' decision to boycott the Jews. Investigations conducted by the National Committee have revealed the manner in which the Jews import the vegetables. A number of Arab exporters in Syria and the Lebanon ship vegetables and fruits to Jews under Arab names. The National Committee therefore hopes that the Lebanese Government will stop such exports which are prejudicial to the Arab efforts in Palestine. It hopes that the Government will permit the export of fruits and vegetables to those Arab merchants who bear certificates endorsed either by the National Committee or the Arab Higher Committee.

Headlines

America's difficulties with Partition Plan. America between the Jews and its petroleum interests. Marshall declares that America has not changed her stand on the partition - Lake Success and Washington

The Arab League Political Committee yesterday studied the Lebanese-Syrian monetary dispute - Cairo

The Arab League has decided to order its Arab troops to march into Palestine if an international police force is sent to that country - Cairo

Iraqi delegates propose to Arab League the unification of all Arab currencies - Cairo

Britain reports to Palestine Commission on entrance of 1400 Arabs into Palestine who are dominating the Samira district. Britain warns Transjordan against permitting Arabs to enter its territory - Lake Success.

AN-NAHAR

The Beirut Health Authorities have decided to seek the advice of Dr. Milim, Rockefeller Institution representative who is now in the Lebanon; and of Mr. Anthony, expert at the American Legation in Beirut, on the methods of mixing DDT to kill insects and to clean the city of Beirut. The Health Department has therefore requested the Ministry of Public Aid to communicate with the American Legation in Beirut with a view to inviting the two experts to a meeting at the Health Department.

AD-DIXAR

asks editorially "why the Presidents of the Syrian and the Lebanese Republics do not meet to put a stop to the disputes existing between their two countries" and re-assures the Syrians that "there is no sincere person in the Lebanon who does not do his utmost to contribute toward the success of the efforts that are now being made in Damascus to create an independent Syrian currency.

List No. 41 of contributions to the Palestine Bureau shows that ~~xxxxxxx~~ contributions up to February 11, 1948 totaled 779,930.50 Lebanese Liras.

AL-HAYAT'S

editor declares that the situation in Palestine is now reaching a climax. He quotes "a leading diplomat" who he met yesterday as saying "When I read the Arab League resolutions of last summer and autumn I derided them because I felt they meant to console the people and soothe their nerves. But recent reports concerning formation of the Arab army of liberation in such a time make me take off my hat for the Arab effort," editor then comments: "No doubt this diplomat has, the others, transmitted this information to his G. The great powers are surely asking many questions representatives in Syria and the Lebanon concerning extent of Arab preparedness and are still doubting intentions and determination. The near future will put an end to all doubts."

- 3 -

Al-Hayat's correspondent reports that an American mission arrived in Beirut in a special plane yesterday. The mission is delegated by the American War Department to study the present situation in the Middle East, particularly in the Arab countries in view of the Palestine problem. This mission has visited the Balkan, Egypt and Damascus and its members are now staying in Normandy Hotel. The mission will go to Iraq and Iran and then return to Egypt and Germany which is the closest American military headquarters to Europe and the Mediterranean. The mission is composed of nine officers each one of whom belongs to a high army command. American official circles say the mission is on an ordinary tour. But the Middle Eastern states are not accustomed to such visits. Thus, political quarters here attach great importance to this visit and connect it with the developments of the international situation on the one hand and with the effect of Palestine on the Arab world, on the other.

Headlines

American oil companies intervene for a reconsideration of the partition plan. American Ministers of State support the companies - Late Success.

Bevin replies in House of Commons to question raised by Communist member concerning Britain's relations with the Arab East: "I do not believe that our Palestine policy has failed" - London.

February 16, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on February 14, 1948

NIDA' AL-WATAN

inquires editorially as to who is responsible for the current wave of arrests which has attended Amir Nuhad Arslan's incident. It demands that these arrests be stopped "lest the situation might be aggravated and lest peaceful persons who are now being sacrificed on the altar of injustice and oppression might wax indignant and their friendship ~~would~~ turn into enmity."

Publishes a statement by Adel Usayran, member of the Lebanese delegation to UNO for the defense of Palestine, in which he attacks the UN "as an organization which is more destructive than constructive". He then goes on to say that the Palestine problem will be solved by force only. "Both the dollar and Zionist influence have prevented us from obtaining our rights in Palestine, despite the mighty efforts of the delegates of the Arab states."

It is learned that Archbishop Mubarak has been invited by Cardinal Spellman to visit the United States at the earliest possible date and that the Archbishop has decided to accept the invitation. It may be pointed out in this connection that Archbishop Mubarak referred to Cardinal Spellman in the speech which he recently delivered on the occasion of St. Maron's festival, as the American personage who is supporting the creation of a society in America for the purpose of promoting Lebanese projects.

Headlines

American Senators urge their Government to lift embargo on shipment of arms to Palestine - Washington

Arab League forms committee of financial experts to study Iraqi proposal for unifying currency - Cairo

Russia will reject partition of Palestine and return Alexandretta to Syria if Arabs boycott America, Britain and Turkey - London

American oil concerns oppose partition of Palestine and the sending of American troops to Holy Land - New York

ASH-SHARQ

This paper's local correspondent states that "having given up hope of resuming normal negotiations with Syria, the Tapline has decided to suspend all its activities in the Lebanon. This decision was communicated this morning to the Lebanese Government."

Ash-Sharq complains that the Government suspended, ten days ago, its publication for three days. Having published only three issues after resuming its publication, the Government again ordered its suspension on Wednesday last for another three days. The Government's reason for the suspension was given as the paper's "disturbance of public order."

AL-AMAL

severely criticizes the Syrian press for abusing the Lebanon in connection with the monetary agreement. It

declares that the Lebanon can exist without importing Syrian produce and that Syria's boycott of the Lebanon is not different from that which the Lebanon has imposed on Palestine - the boycott injured the Lebanon and dulled its fruit and vegetable market.

Publishes telegrams from numerous sources protesting against the Government's detention of Louis Ziyada.

In reporting the Tapline's decision to cancel its agreement with the Lebanese Government, this paper writes that the Government has communicated with the Premier in Cairo on the subject and asked him to prevent the company from abandoning the Lebanon, if possible.

BEIRUT

writes editorially that the "only way which the responsible authorities in the Lebanon can follow regarding the monetary agreement is not to refer it to Parliament, to revoke it, extend a friendly hand to Syria, establish an export bank, open a Lebanese-Syrian currency bureau, and strengthen its common interests with Syria. If the authorities decide in favor of separation, then they will alone be responsible for their deeds. The Lebanon is our homeland and we shall defend its high interests to the last."

The Council of Ministers agreed, the day before yesterday, to the Spanish Foreign Office's proposal for establishing diplomatic relations between Spain and the Lebanon.

The Moslem Orphanage of Beirut decided on February 7, 1948 to look after the welfare of the orphans of Arabs who die fighting for the Palestine cause.

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on February 17, 1948ASH-SHARQ

publishes in its editorial space the announcement which Sami Beg as-Solh made this morning concerning the monetary agreement. Sami Beg as-Solh gives the following reasons for opposing the agreement:

- 1 - We are not satisfied with the accuracy of the figures mentioned in the agreement
- 2 - The agreement does not return our gold to us
- 3 - The last war turned our country into a camp for Allied troops who spent about 300 million pounds sterling. France took away these sterling receipts and the "bank" issued instead Syrian and Lebanese currency notes.
- 4 - The agreement keeps in French hands the Export Organization, namely the Bank, as well as the Exchange Office and Control.
- 5 - The agreement provides for the French Franc's guarantee of our currency, which is a fictional guarantee
- 6 - The negotiations for the agreement which lasted for six months were unjustifiably conducted in secrecy abroad.
- 7 - The Lebanon signed the agreement to the exclusion of Syria, and before it was fully examined by the Lebanese Government in conjunction with Syria.
- 8 - The agreement is a calamity which will break our back because of the resultant rise in commodity prices.
- 9 - The agreement does not promote the economic interests of the Lebanon and is not compatible with the common national principles which animate Syria and the Lebanon.
- 10 - The agreement was signed before the advice of the Arab League and the International Monetary Fund was sought.

states

This journal ~~states~~ that its representative has asked the Acting Prime Minister concerning the truth of a report published in the Beirut press to the effect that the Tapline had stopped its activities in the Lebanon. The Acting Premier replied that "he had officially received that news and had relayed it by 'phone to the Premier in Cairo." The journal then goes on to say that in the forenoon of Saturday last, Mr. Pinkerton, the American Minister, visited the Seral where discussions were conducted to "pacify the situation in the interests of the relations existing between the Tapline and the Lebanon. It was then felt desirable to issue a 'suave and elegant' notification which does not deny the company's cessation of its activities but denies that the two directors of the company had notified al-Murr thereof." After referring

AD-DIYAR

The Lebanese Foreign Office is in receipt of a communication from the British authorities to the effect that the British Air Force is willing to survey the Lebanese shores. When the Ministry of National Defense was asked whether or not it had requested the British Air Force to make such a survey, it replied that it had not approached any party on this subject.

- 3 -

AN-NAHAR

The Internal Security Council decided yesterday to prevent the staging of three demonstrations: The first against the monetary agreement; the second supporting the demands of landowners; and the third condemning the landowners.

Reports emanating from Moscow and Jerusalem indicate that 25,000 Russians have asked for permissions to visit Jerusalem in Eastern. Arab circles in Palestine are wondering about the meaning of this increased Russian pilgrimage to the holy places.

It is learned that Mr. Evans, the Commercial Attache of the British Legation in Beirut has told the Lebanese Government that he was willing to intervene for the transportation of petroleum from Rumania to the Lebanon.

SABT AL-AHRAR

comments on Syria's attitude towards the Lebanon as follows: "The Lebanon is, in its present stand, maintaining its own interests by clarifying its monetary position after having clarified its political position. The differences which arose at the last minute between Syria and the Lebanon - Syria was convinced of the agreement and in fact negotiated it for five months - indeed these differences should not be a cause for separation unless, of course, Syria wants the Lebanon to be a tool in its hands....The Lebanese nation, which wants to be free from any external pressure, is ready to make all sacrifices for its aspirations. It takes no notice of the threats which are coming from the Syrian press and Syrian official circles. The Lebanese know that these threats are artificial maneuvers calculated to pressure them to prefer the interests of others to their own."

February 19, 1948

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on February 19, 1948

BEIRUT

takes exception to L'Orient's statement that ~~Muslim~~ former Premier Abdul Hamid Karami and the people of Tripoli and Sayda are nationalists who derive their inspiration and instructions from the foreigner. The paper then declares in answer that "most of the farsighted and patriotic Lebanese are against the ill-fated monetary agreement. In studying and rejecting it, they do so in the political and economic future welfare of the Lebanon. Let us then leave this revolting tune, the tune of antagonising one Lebanese party against another. We are all in the Lebanon for the fatherland, for maintaining the Lebanese-Syrian economic union and for melting, if possible, all the Arab countries in that economic union."

Students of high and secondary schools in the Lebanon have protested by letter to the responsible Government officials against the Franco-Lebanese monetary agreement.

The Iraq Petroleum Company has officially notified the Ministry of Public Works that its Board of Directors has decided to build a second refinery in Tripoli. The company hopes to be able to double its petroleum production to ensure the Lebanon's requirements.

SAWT AL-AHRAR

welcomes editorially the return yesterday to Beirut of Hamid Franjiah, the Lebanese Foreign Minister and congratulates him "on the results which he obtained after long negotiations." The editorial then declares "that Franjiah was able, during the negotiations, to pilot the Lebanese ^{ship} to the shores of safety."

Under the headline "You Have Confused us" Rushdi Ma'aluf publishes an article in Sawt al-Ahrar on the Tapline part of which is translated below:

The Tapline has surveyed the land from a technical standpoint and found that the best terminal would be the Lebanon

The company is studying the possibility of making Latakia its terminal

The company is contemplating extending its line across Palestinian territory

The company builds its pipeline across Syrian territory

The Tapline is thinking of having Alexandretta as its petroleum terminal

The Tapline will carry the petroleum directly from Bahrain on ships and tankers

The Tapline has temporarily suspended its activities... stopped its shipments... resumed its shipments

The Tapline has rented office quarters in Beirut..
engaged employees

The Tapline has dismissed its employees

The Tapline will begin its operations officially in
February, March, April, May...

The Tapline has canceled its agreement

The Tapline has not canceled its agreement

Syria does not ratify the Tapline agreement

Syria agrees

The Tapline requests the press not to predict events

The Tapline requests the press to publish... to explain

So and so is the Tapline manager but so and so is the
general manager while so and so is the president.

Baghdad - Feb. 18 - The Iraqi Cabinet has met to study
the personal message which President Truman has sent
to the Iraqi Regent urging the Iraqi Government to
use its influence towards ending the disturbances in
Palestine. The Iraqi Cabinet will answer this message
strongly and will blame the United States for the
present and future events in Palestine. Iraqi Public
opinion has resented the President's message which
is published by the press under banner headlines.
Political party leaders in Iraq have condemned the
message and have urged the Iraqi Government to answer
it strongly.

The Lebanese Minister in Moscow has informed the
Lebanese Government that the Soviet Foreign Office has
approached him on the subject of opening a commercial
navigation line between Beirut and Odessa, Batum, Novorossiisk
and other Russian ports on the Black Sea. The Russians
have also proposed to the Lebanese Minister the initiation
of negotiations for exporting Russian products needed by
the Lebanon such as wheat, petroleum and agricultural
machinery against exportable Lebanese commodities.
The Lebanese Foreign Office has therefore asked the
Ministry of National Economy to prepare a statement
indicating the type and quantity of products which the
Lebanon could export to the Soviet Union.

The American Military Mission left Beirut yesterday
by sea to Cyprus.

AN-NAHAR

welcomes the arrival in Beirut yesterday of Hamid
Frajih, the Lebanese Foreign Minister and hopes
that his return will stop the anxiety which has been
created by the Franco-Lebanese monetary agreement.

AL-HAYAT

writes editorially "At a time when important developments are continually occurring in the world and when the Arab East is faced with grave problems, it is hard for us to talk about the distribution of kerosene in Beirut. Undoubtedly, this event is insignificant in relation to other developments but it, nevertheless, reveals an important phase of our popular morality and administrative behaviour. In treating this subject, we are not so much concerned with the question of a few litres of kerosene as we are with two pests which have dominated our national conduct: Greed and Confusion."

The negotiations which Mardam and as-Solh have been conducting in Cairo have succeeded and the two Premiers have signed the Shtoura protocol which could not be signed last week. The two Premiers have also pledged to resume their negotiations immediately after their return to their respective countries for the conclusion of a new agreement.

Now that the Foreign Minister has returned to Beirut, the people are beginning to wonder whether his return will be followed by a cabinet reshuffle. We felt yesterday the pulse of certain quarters on the subject and learned that no cabinet change is contemplated at the present time, particularly as the Chamber of Deputies has not yet debated the monetary agreement.

The Ministry of National Defense yesterday made the following announcement:

The Ministry of Defense has the honor to inform the parties concerned that Article 108 of the Military Penal Code provides punishment against any person who disparages the army or who commits acts calculated to weaken the disciplinary spirit of the Army. The Ministry therefore prohibits the publication of any report dealing with the ~~operations~~ operations or movements of the Army units. Excepted from this are the notifications and announcements whose publications are ordered by the appropriate authorities. To avoid any violation which might be committed by the parties concerned, whether intentionally or otherwise, the Ministry of Defense has detailed an Officer from the Army Command to peruse in advance all publications relating to the army and to check every article of this kind before it is published. For this reason, the foregoing Officer will be ready to receive the parties concerned ~~in the forenoon~~ in the forenoon of each day in his office at the Ministry of Defense.

February 20, 1948

Review of the Legal Arabic Press
Appearing on February 20, 1948

BEIRUT

At 5:00 p.m. yesterday Nuhsein Beg al-Barazi, Syrian Minister of Interior, arrived in Beirut by plane. He drove directly to the Presidential Residence where he talked to Sheikh Bishara al-Khoufi for more than two hours. Muhammad al-Abbood, Finance Minister and Hamid Franjiah, Foreign Minister, were then invited to join the talks which lasted till 8:30 p.m. The following notification was issued thereafter:

"In consequence of the contacts which have been made between the leaders of the Syrian and the Lebanese Governments in Cairo, Damascus and Beirut, it is resolved that the Ministers of Finance and Economics of the two countries shall meet to resume their talks concerning the resources and common interests of their two countries.

"Until these talks are concluded, which should not last beyond March 25, 1948, the two parties have decided to adopt all measures calculated to facilitate the reaching of the agreement desired by the two sister states on their common interests. Furthermore, they are desirous of maintaining the ties of friendship and brotherhood which bind their two countries."

Following the publication of the above notification, Amir Jamil Shihab was instructed to notify all customs centers that they should accept Syrian Liras when levying customs duties. Likewise, Nuhsein al-Barazi got in touch with the Presidential Residence in Damascus and requested al-Ghazi to discontinue all the measures which have been taken for preventing the transportation of agricultural and industrial products from Syria to the Lebanon.

- - -

Cairo - February 19 - Nihad as-Solh declared today that the Lebanon will enter into new negotiations with Syria regarding the details of the agreement which was recently signed by him and Bardaw in Cairo. It is reported that these negotiations have actually started and will be continued after the return of the two Premiers to their respective countries.

BEIRUT ~~newspaper~~ headlines its editorial as follows: "As a result of the provisional agreement which has been reached in Cairo between the Syrian and Lebanese Premiers, we demand that the Lebanon abandon the French currency agreement and co-operate with the Syrians in order to discontinue its relations with France and to create an independent-joint currency."

Muhammad al-Abbood, Lebanese Finance Minister, has notified his Syrian colleague al-Haj Wahbi al-Hariri of the resolution which the Lebanese Council of Ministers adopted yesterday regarding its approval of the agreement which was signed by the Syrian and Lebanese Premiers in Cairo on February 17, 1948. When asked when the Syrian official notification is expected to be published, al-Hariri replied that the Syrian Council of Ministers will meet at 4:00 p.m. ~~yesterday~~ (Feb. 19) to study the agreement. Following is the text of the agreement:

- 2 -

"His Excellency Jamil Mardam, Prime Minister of Syria and His Excellency Riadh as-Solh, Prime Minister of the Lebanon have met and reviewed the situations existing in their respective countries. They have agreed on the following:

- "1- Discussions shall be immediately initiated between the Lebanese and the Syrian Governments with a view to reconsidering the Common Interests Agreement in the light of the new status, provided that such discussions shall be over two weeks before March 31, 1948 to enable each of the two Governments to take necessary action during the second half of March at the end of which the Common Interests Agreement, now in force, will expire.
- "2- Up to March 31, 1948, the Lebanese or the Syrian currency shall be accepted without discrimination by the 'Syrian-Lebanese' customs.
- "3- All the exceptional restrictions/were which imposed subsequent to January 31, 1947 on the transportation of goods between the two countries shall be canceled.
- "4 - The movement of Lebanese or Syrian currencies between the two countries shall be subject to permits from the Minister of Finance of the country to which the currency is moved, if the amount exceeds 200 Syrian or Lebanese Liras for each person. The movement of currency by the branches of the Issuing Office in the two countries shall not be subject to this restriction but the object of such movement is the withdrawal of currency from circulation in accordance with the provisions in force in the two countries."

The President yesterday invited the Saudi Arabian Minister to his Residence and handed him a personal message thanking King Ibn Sa'ud for his kind mediation in the recent Lebanese-Syrian currency dispute.

The Lebanese Foreign Office yesterday received a cable from Camille Shamoun, Lebanon's representative to UNO to the effect that the Security Council will resume its study of the Palestine Commission's report next Tuesday and that Faris al-Khoury will apprise the Security Council of the Arab States' decision to resist any international force which might be sent to Palestine to implement the partition plan. BEIRUT'S representative adds that Camille Shamoun's cable frankly refers to the fact that the attitude of the foreign countries has not changed towards the Palestine issue.

List No. 45 of contributions to the Permanent Palestine Bureau shows that the contributions up to February 19, 1948 totaled 845,866.80 Lebanese Liras.

- 3 -

Headlines

Arab League adopts ten important economic resolutions concerning its relations with countries supporting partition of Palestine by force. Arab League opposes return of Libya to Italy and demands that it be granted full independence. Arab League agrees in principle to holding of Asiatic Congress to discuss Palestine Issue -Cairo

The San'a radio station announces death of Imam Yahya which is not yet officially confirmed - Cairo

Iraq's representative in Trusteeship Council withdraws in protest against discussion of application of trusteeship system to Jerusalem - Lake Success.

AL-HADEETH

The Lebanese Foreign Minister told a delegation of businessmen which visited him in his house yesterday "I must re-iterate and explain for the second time that the monetary agreement is nothing more than a financial agreement, in ~~xxxx~~ other words, an agreement of a technical nature. We signed it in order to save the Lebanon from falling into an economic calamity which it could not face, particularly as ours is a consuming country. I must add that the terms which we were able to obtain are much better than we expected. Moreover, some of the provisions which were acceptable to the Syrian negotiators were rejected by the insistence of the Lebanese delegation as they were regarded harmful to the interests of the two countries. At any rate, the explanations which I hope to make to the Government and the people will clarify, once for all, the circumstances which attended the negotiations..."

"We read yesterday a report published in the Damascus press to the effect that the Syrian Department of Posts and Telegraphs has notified its employees of Lebanese origin that their services will be terminated beginning next month. We regret to hear that the Syrian Government is taking such a step."

The Lebanese Government has been invited to participate in the International Medical Conference to be held on August 10, 1948 in Stockholm, Sweden.

The Lebanese Government has been invited by the Burmese Government to attend the Asiatic Agriculturists Congress scheduled to be held in Rangoon next April to examine the possibilities of increasing the agricultural produce of Asiatic countries. It is felt that the Lebanese Government will decline this invitation but will request that it be provided with the resolutions which said Congress may adopt.

Cairo - No confirmation is available here regarding the death of Imam Yahya. Certain unconfirmed reports indicate that the Imam was killed with two of his sons, one of them the Crown Prince.

- 4 -

AL HAYAT

comments editorially on the provisional agreement which has been concluded between the Syrian and the Lebanese Premiers in Cairo as follows: "Now that the two parties have pledged themselves to maintain the principle of economic collaboration, we feel at ease and thank all those who have helped in saving the situation. We also thank God for the Arab League's assistance in settling our dispute."

Cairo - The Egyptian press has published the details of the new Syrian-Lebanese agreement. In a statement to AL-NISRI newspaper of Egypt Makh al-Balh is reported to have said:

"I have never, for a moment, thought that there exists a situation between us which might be called 'differences'. I have proclaimed this on every occasion... Thank God, we have now found a basis which will help return things to normal and which will permit the resumption of negotiations for attaining the ends desired by all the Lebanese and Syrian peoples... Our pleasure is doubled by the fact that this event took place in Cairo where we have been accorded every consideration and attention by Egypt, by its King, by its Government, by its leaders, and by its press. The agreement has been reached in the atmosphere of the Arab League whose understanding of and sympathy with our problems we have never doubted. I am confident that the news of the agreement, for the success of which our Syrian brethren have evinced absolute sincerity and willingness, will have the best effect in our two sister states, and indeed in all the Arab countries..."
Janil Haddad and Azzam Pasha are also reported to have made statements to AL-NISRI along these lines.

AD-DIYAR

welcomes editorially the provisional agreement which has been concluded by the Syrian and the Lebanese Premiers in Cairo and ~~which~~ hopes that the Syrians and the Lebanese will forget the recriminations which have been exchanged by their politicians and their press in connection with the Franco-Lebanese monetary agreement.

Lebanese volunteers have ~~lost~~^{won} in one of their battles in Palestine twelve large Zionist army vehicles. They brought five of them to the Lebanon, one is in the customs, the second in Bint Jubail and the last three were brought to Beirut. The Department of General Security has placed these vehicles in custody at the small Serail. It is reported that the Lebanese authorities intend to return the three vehicles to ~~the~~ British army which overlooked them when they were in Zionist hands.